

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for forming a capacitor stack for a flat capacitor, the apparatus comprising:

a fixture for holding a plurality of capacitor layers defining a capacitor stack as each of the plurality of capacitor layers is placed onto the capacitor stack;

means for continually applying a compression force on the capacitor stack until each of the plurality of capacitor layers have been placed onto the capacitor stack; and

an alignment system for aligning each of the plurality of capacitor layers as each capacitor layer is placed onto the capacitor stack, wherein the alignment system includes a vision alignment system.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the fixture includes a base pad for holding the capacitor stack, wherein the base pad is continually urged upwards.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein means for continually applying a compression force includes a base pad for continually urging the capacitor stack upward and an upper member for contacting a top surface of the capacitor stack.

24. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for forming a capacitor stack, the apparatus comprising:

a fixture for holding a stack of individual capacitor layers, the fixture having a base pad and a force member to force the base pad upward, the fixture having an upper member to hold down the stack as the stack is forced upward by the base pad;

a placement member for placing each of a plurality of capacitor layers into the fixture;
and

an alignment system for aligning each of the plurality of capacitor layers as the placement member places each layer into the fixture, wherein the alignment system includes a vision alignment system;

wherein, the upper member is adapted to move while the placement member holds down each capacitor layer as each capacitor layer is placed onto the stack such that the stack is continually in compression.

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the placement member includes a controlled robotic placement arm.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the force member includes a spring.

27. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:

- a base pad for holding a stack of individual capacitor layers;
- a movable upper member located above the base pad, such that the stack is located between the base pad and the upper member;
- a placement member for placing each of a plurality of capacitor layers onto the stack;
- wherein, the upper member is adapted to move while the placement member holds down each capacitor layer as each capacitor layer is placed onto the stack such that the stack is continually held down by either the upper member or the placement member until each of the plurality of capacitor layers is placed; and
- an alignment system for aligning each of the plurality of capacitor layers as the placement member places each layer onto the stack, wherein the alignment system includes a vision alignment system.

28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, including a force member to force the base pad upwards towards the upper member.

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the force member includes a spring.